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### **A Message from the Chairman, Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty**

I am pleased to submit the 2003 annual report of the Small Business Advocacy Council.

As Lieutenant Governor I am proud to serve as Chairman of the Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC). The council has as its goals improvement of government relations with small businesses, providing easily accessible information for business owners, and providing the assistance necessary for small business owners to get started and grow their business in Rhode Island.

Throughout the year the council has worked to create an effective working relationship with area Chambers of Commerce, other small business advocacy groups, and most importantly, individual small business owners. Together, under the guidance of the SBAC, issues such as affordable health care, access to technical assistance and the monitoring and advocacy of legislative business initiatives have been addressed. For more information on the Small Business Advocacy Council, I invite you to visit the Small Business Advocacy Council web site at <http://www.ltgov.ri.gov>.

In 2003 the SBAC held all of their meetings at the RI Economic Development Corporation in order for members to have greater input with and understanding of the happenings of the RI EDC. It is my hope that this relationship between the SBAC and EDC will help to enhance EDC's assistance to the RI small business community. The Small Business Advocacy Council has proven to be an important asset in helping to foster the development of a stronger small business climate in the state.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Fogarty  
Lieutenant Governor  
Chairman, Small Business Advocacy Council

**BACKGROUND OF THE  
SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

The RI Small Business Advocacy Council was established to bring together leaders from the private and public sectors with the task of addressing the needs of small business owners in the state. The twenty-member council includes elected officials, small business owners, small business advocates and Chamber of Commerce Directors.

**CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COUNCIL**

- 1999-present: Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty**  
1996-1998: Lieutenant Governor Bernard A. Jackvony  
1994-1996: Lieutenant Governor Robert Weygand

**SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL  
(\*Memberships as of December 31, 2003)**

Ex-Officio Members

Name	Representing

The Honorable Charles J. Fogarty	Office of the Lieutenant Governor
The Honorable Paul J. Tavares Designee: Gary Bliss	Office of the General Treasurer
Mathew A. Brown Designee: Rele Abiade	Office of the Secretary of State
Senator Marc Cote	Chairman, Joint Committee On Small Business
Vacant	Vice Chairman, Joint Committee On Small Business
Michael McMahon, Director Designee: Louis Soares	Economic Development Corporation
Marvin D. Perry Designee: Christine Greico	Department of Labor and Training

### The Governor's Appointments

Name	Representing
Curtis Spence	Public Member
Mark Pearson	Public Member
Christopher Paolino	Governor's staff

### The Lieutenant Governor's Appointments

Name	Representing
Joshua Miller	Public Member
Janet White	Public Member
Raymond Fogarty	Business related department of higher educational institution

## **The Speaker's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Vacant	Jt. Committee On Small Business, Minority Member
Herbert Wiess	Public Member

## **The Senate Majority Leader's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
John Gregory	Public Member
Edgar Ladoucer	Public Member

## **The Secretary of the State's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Cheryl Watkins- Snead	Public Member

## **The General Treasurer's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
David Piacitelli	Public Member

## **THE 2003 SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL REPORT**

The Small Business Advocacy Council works in the following areas to accomplish its mission: the development and support of public policy initiatives; public information and education, formal advocacy throughout state, local and federal government and advocacy within the minority business community. During 2003 the full Council held four meetings on the following dates. The Council also co-sponsored Rhode Island's first ever Latino

## Business Exposition.

March 7

June 5

September 19

October 30 - Latino  
Business Expo

December 5

Copies of all Council meetings are maintained in the office of the Lt. Governor. A summary of the Council's 2003 activities in each of the major areas of its work follows.

### ***I. LEGISLATION and ADVOCACY.***

During the 2003 legislative session the Council took on the role of informing its members of the status of numerous pieces of legislation that had potential effects on small businesses in the state. The Council put together a legislative tracker to update and brief its members of the status of the legislative proposals. In addition, the SBAC supported numerous public policy initiatives and advocated for them in the legislature. Chairman Fogarty sent correspondence to all members of the general assembly outlining the Council's public policy endorsements. Specific letters of endorsement were distributed to the members of committees where that legislation was heard.

#### **Public Policy Advocacy**

- The Council sent a formal letter of advocacy to Governor Donald Carcieri requesting that funding be made available for the State Building Code Commission to educate and train contractors to be in compliance with the State's new building code standards (See Appendix II). ***This issue was not addressed in the budget. Through the urging of the SBAC the RI EDC One Stop Committee has heard from Dan DeDentro, State Building Commissioner in order to address this issue.***
- The Council passed a resolution in support of fully funding the Samuel Slater Technology Fund from \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000 (See Appendix III). ***The Slater Fund was increased to \$4,000,000 during the 2003 legislative session.***
- The Council sent a formal letter to Governor Donald Carcieri recommending that the state take a comprehensive look at the

structure of tourism in Rhode Island in light of the Governor's Advisory Council on Tourism's recommendation to disband the state's local tourism agencies. The SBAC felt that the disbanding of the local tourism agencies could have an adverse affect on local small businesses in those communities (See Appendix IV). *The RI economic Development Corporation did not adopt the concept of disbanding the regional tourism councils. The councils retained their autonomy under a more structured coordinating agency in the EDC.*

- The Council endorsed the RI Economic Development Corporation's mission of "building the economy from within"-specifically EDC's commitment to nurturing existing businesses and building partnerships with local municipalities and economic development agencies. The Council also supported the dedication of \$500,000 to the City and Town Economic Development Matching Grant Fund to assist local economic development initiatives.

*This money was appropriated in the budget and has been allocated to EDC to administer local economic development matching grants.*

- The Council endorsed the investment of \$1.4 million in Adult Literacy Initiatives - which will help Rhode Islanders acquire the basic skills they need to be productive members of the state's workforce. *These monies were allocated in the budget and have begun to be distributed to literacy agencies throughout Rhode Island.*

## **Legislative Support**

### **Worksite Wellness Tax Credit**

**H 5414** (Costantino) and **S 0751** ( Roberts)

*05/08/2003 House Finance Continued*

*05/01/2003 Senate Finance recommended measure be held for further study*

*This act would provide a tax credit to businesses, which employ a quarterly average of less than one hundred employees during*

*the tax year for which work-site wellness is provided at the work-site*

- RI Businesses may see a reduction on insurance premiums and may potentially reduce the number of health insurance and workers' compensation claims if employees participate in a certified wellness program.
- Wellness programs can lead to lower health care costs, reduced absenteeism, increased productivity and higher morale.
- Small businesses in Rhode Island often struggle to fund employee benefits and therefore shall be given greater incentives to invest in wellness programs for their employees

### **School-to-Career Program Tax Credit**

**H 5385** (McNamara) and **S 0013** (Tassoni)

*04/08/2003 Senate Finance recommended measure be held for further study*

*04/08/2003 House Finance recommended measure be held for further study*

*This act would provide a tax credit of ten percent of the expenses, up to two hundred dollars to private businesses, which participate in a "qualified school-to-career program".*

- Businesses in Rhode Island need a highly skilled, educated and motivated workforce to maintain a strong economy.
- Private investment into this program will facilitate a comprehensive school-to-career program. The program integrates traditional classroom education with industry skill training.
- This program would serve as a partnership between private business and public education creating opportunities for students in tomorrow's work force.



## **RI Public Private Partnership Act**

**H 6154 (Fox) S 0864 (Irons)**

*04/24/2003 Senate passed Sub A, 04/24/2003 Referred to House H.E.W.*

*04/30/2003 House passed Sub A, 05/06/2003 Referred to Senate Education*

*07/10/2003 Signed by the Governor - Public Law 154.*

*This legislation would allow researchers at public institutions of higher education to form relationships with or hold interests in commercial ventures stemming from their research. This act would provide procedures for approval of such relationships and for the development of regulations and guidelines governing such relationships.*

- Research and development are key aspects for the state's institutions of higher education. Inventions of value to the public can be made by persons working in public institutions of higher education, while still maintaining the educational and learning focus of the institution.
- The marketing of these inventions will contribute to job creation and the overall economic well being of the state.
- It is appropriate to encourage and support innovation and ensure that the public receives the benefit. In facilitating this activity the state recognizes the need for cooperation between governmental agencies, private industries and the higher education professionals.

## **II. PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION and OUTREACH**

At the four meetings held by the Council, various speakers and presentations were scheduled to inform Council members of some of the issues and programs affecting the small business community. In addition to the informational presentations, Michael McMahon, Director, RI EDC briefed the SBAC on

initiatives and upcoming projects that the EDC is focusing on. Director McMahon also answered questions and concerns of SBAC members. In an attempt to inform members of the community about the SBAC and to get feedback from the state's business community, Chairman Fogarty visited numerous businesses and economic development organizations throughout the state. Listed below are the presentations put forth before the council during each 2003 meeting. Specific information on topics discussed at council meetings is available in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

- **The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation**

*Michael McMahon, Director*

Director McMahon expressed his desire to work with SBAC on issues of concern to the small business community. He informed the SBAC that the main goal of EDC is job development. Director McMahon briefed the group on the structure of EDC. Director McMahon also informed the group that he would be heading up the Governor's One Stop Committee, which is comprised of department heads and agencies who give licenses to businesses in an attempt to streamline the process and make Rhode Island a more business friendly state. Director McMahon expressed the need to work with local economic development organizations to make EDC more of a partner rather than a competitor in economic development in the state. Director McMahon explained the "service and marketing" plan for EDC. This plan includes institutionalizing "best practices", creating a one stop committee to make the state business friendly, a fully funded Slater Technology Center to build capital for start-up technology companies, the appropriate marketing of selling Rhode Island to attract business into the State and business development. Director McMahon also expressed a desire for EDC to establish partnerships with local economic development officials and Chambers of Commerce. For more information on the RI Economic Development Corporation, please visit their web site at <http://www.riedc.com>.

**June 6**

- **"Oh the Places We'll Go—An inside look at what's new in the College of Pharmacy at URI and it's impact on economic development in the Ocean State"**

*Donald E. Letendre, Dean, Professor of Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Dean Letendre opened his remarks by thanking the Lieutenant Governor for allowing him the opportunity to brief the Council on ways in which the College of Pharmacy can act as an economic engine in the state. Some of the major goals of Dean Letendre are to build a tech facility to do clinical supply training to study injectable products. This will create the infrastructure of support needed to attract and establish bio-tech companies. The program is also focusing on starting a drug information center. This will allow for citizens of the state to receive information on drugs and train students at the College of Pharmacy in drug education. Another goal is to contract to provide services to state agencies such as MHRH in order to build partnerships between the state and the college. Dean Letendre stressed the need for an entrepreneurial system at the college to provide a mechanism to encourage the faculty to become better business-people. The intent is to take the ideas that are formulated at the college and put them into real-life business opportunities. Dean Letendre also expressed the plan to build a new facility for the health and life sciences and to increase the faculty. Dean Letendre concluded his remarks by offering to take members of the SBAC on a tour of the College of Pharmacy in order to give them a greater understanding of what is taking place at the college and how that can be utilized in economic development initiatives for the state. For more information on the URI College of Pharmacy, please visit their web-site at <http://www.uri.edu/pharmacy>.

**September 19<sup>th</sup>**

- **The Rhode Island Center for Performance Excellence:  
Dedicated to Helping Rhode Island Companies Grow Using the  
Criteria for Performance Excellence.**

*Brian M. Knight, Executive Director, RI Center for Performance Excellence*

*Richard M. Field, Jr., Chairman/President Autocrat Premium Coffee*

Mr. Knight and Mr. Field briefed the Council on the ways in which the RI Center for Performance Excellence can grow business in the state by improving management and business technique using the criteria for performance excellence. The mission of the Center is to act as a catalyst that enables RI businesses and organizations to achieve and sustain world class performance excellence by providing a disciplined framework for improving their competitiveness positions and financial results. Mr. Knight briefed the Council on how the center operates and encouraged members to take part in the center's initiatives. Mr. Field informed the Council that his company had greatly benefited from the Center for Performance Excellence. He provided the council with statistics that showed the improvement in productivity after using the Center for Performance Excellence. For more information on the RI Center for Performance Excellence please visit their web-site at <http://www.ricpe.org/>.

## **December 5<sup>th</sup>**

- Improving the Health and Safety of Working Rhode Islanders by Promoting and Supporting Worksite Health Promotion --- The Work-site Wellness Council of RI**

*Jeff Johnson, President , Worksite Wellness Council of RI*

*Edna Poulin, Chief, Worksite Wellness, RI Department of Health*

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Poulin informed the SBAC on the mission and focus of the Worksite Wellness Council. They said that the Council is dedicated to improving the health and safety of working Rhode Islanders by promoting and supporting work-site health promotion initiatives, which meet or exceed national standards. Their goal is to make Rhode Island the first "well state" in the nation. The focus of their initiatives is to reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity, promote healthy

eating and weight management and managing stress. They said that they are trying to do more in terms of promoting business participation with the program. They will again seek to put in legislation allowing businesses that participate in a certified work-site wellness program to receive a tax credit. Members of the SBAC were receptive to supporting this legislation again during the 2004 session. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Poulin said the work-site wellness program can play an active role in lowering health care premiums in RI by creating a healthier workforce. For more information on the Work-site Wellness Council of Rhode Island please visit their web-site at <http://www/wwcri.org>.

- **Every Company Counts Program, RI EDC**

*Louis Soares, Every Company Counts*

Mr. Soares began his remarks by saying that the Every Company Counts Program is going to be a network set up through EDC that will provide an opportunity for small businesses to flourish in Rhode Island. He said that the program is focused on RI companies with 100 or fewer employees and said that the network of providers would encompass both public and private sector organizations. He said that the program will focus on streamlining communication and business solutions to small business. He outlined many types of business solutions that these partners could assist business owners with. He said that the EDC facilitator team and the Advisory Board would work with the other resource groups to ensure that a small business in the state gets the most benefit from those resources. For more information on the Every Company Counts Program please visit <http://www.businessfirst.org>.

## **Business Visits**

In order to gain a greater understanding of the needs and challenges of small businesses, Chairman Fogarty visited numerous businesses and economic development agencies. These visits have diversified participation within the SBAC, provided an educational opportunity for the Chairman who in turn has been able to address certain issues with the SBAC and the RI EDC and has served as a means to educate members of the business community on SBAC undertakings. The following is a list of some of the businesses and organizations visited by the Chairman in 2003.

Olneyville Re-Development Agency	Frank Shea, Executive Director
South Providence Development Agency	Joe Newsome, Executive Director
URI College of Pharmacy	Dr. Donald Letendre, Dean
Hodges Badge Company	Rhode Island Manufacturing Extension Services and Rick Hodges, President
Nuzzo and Campion Stone Cutters	James Nuzzo, Proprietor
Lighthouse Computer Services	Tom Mrva, Proprietor
Zap Designs	Erica Zap Proprietor
Senesco Boat Builders	Gary Schuler, CEO
Tour of the Taunton Ave. Business District (East Providence)	Taunton Ave. Business Association and  Diane Feather, E. Providence Planning Office
NAIAD Inflatables	Steve Connet, CEO
Speidel, Inc.	Jeffrey Massotti, CEO
Tour of Broad Street Business District	Jose Brito, Broad Street Business Association
American Mussel Harvesters	William Silkes, President

### III. Forums

One of the main objectives of the Small Business Advocacy Council is to foster communication between state government, small business advocacy groups and the small business community. It is the intent of the SBAC to provide business people with the tools they need to start and grow their business. Over the past few years, the SBAC has developed and initiated numerous forums aimed at empowering members of the small business community.

In 2004 the SBAC, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Small Business Development Center, sponsored the first ever Rhode Island Latino Business Expo. Also, the SBAC voted to establish an "arts as an economic engine forum" work-group to develop a program aimed at empowering artists to become better small business people.

### **Latino Business Exposition**

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, the Small Business Advocacy Council in conjunction with the RI Small Business Development Center (RI SBDC) hosted the state's first ever Latino Business Exposition. Sovereign Bank, Cox Communications and the Rhode Island Foundation sponsored the event. As a culmination of the RI SBDC's Latino business development program, this event featured 75 business exhibitors and over 200 attendees. The SBAC received very positive feedback and is intent on sponsoring the event again next year.

- **Background:**

Data from the State of Rhode Island shows that the state has a total of 2,186 Latino owned businesses with total sales and receipts of \$207,036,00 annually. This also shows that the state has 447 firms with paid employees with annual sell receipts of \$157,405,00 and employing a total 1,890 individuals with an annual payroll of \$31,264,00. In light of these statistics, the RISBDC began its Latino Business Initiative in October of 2002. With the success of this initiative it was made clear that this is Rhode Island's fastest growing ethnic group and within this community exists a growing monolingual business segment. As a potential or existing business owner, regardless of language, there exists a series of challenges that face entrepreneurs. What makes this situation even more challenging is if the entrepreneur speaks little or no English and they are not familiar with the resources available to them it is extremely difficult to navigate themselves through the maze of information. Sensitivity to the cultural and socioeconomic dynamics of this community is crucial to the effectiveness of this type of program.

- **Objectives:**

The purpose of this event was to offer a grassroots, community

driven business expo, affordably priced and encompassing cultural and social dynamics that cater specifically to Latino community (food, music, Spanish language). This event also allowed entrepreneurs outside of the Latino community to gain a further understanding of this business segment and potentially seek joint ventures or other business related partnership.

An objective of this exposition was to empower members of this emerging segment of the Rhode Island economy by creating a networking opportunity, which will foster business relationships and build capacity. Strategically moving beyond their traditional niche market will broaden the impact that this demographic sector has on the local and state economy.

- **Community Involvement/Marketing:**

Many community partners helped in making this event such a success. Progreso Latino, CHisPA, SouthSide Broad Street and the South Providence Merchants Association all helped in marketing and assisting with the event. The involvement of these local community organizations helped to energize the local business base from a grass-roots level.

In order to market this event articles appeared in the Pawtucket Times, The Woonsocket Call, The Providence Journal, The Providence Business News and Providence en Espanol. The radio station Supermax 990 AM and the television station Telemundo featured public service announcements showcasing this event.

### **The Development of the Arts as an Economic Engine Forum**

In March the SBAC voted to appoint Council member Herb Weiss to chair a workgroup to plan a forum to help to artists become better businesspeople, as well as to address ways that government can create a flourishing arts environment.

Chairman Weiss established a workgroup comprised of artists and arts advocates who are intimately involved with the role that the arts play in the Rhode Island Economy.

### **Arts as an Economic Engine Workgroup**

Herb Weiss, Chair	City of Pawtucket, Office of Re-Development
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Randall Rosenbaum	Executive Director, RI State Arts Council
Ann Galligan	Co-Director, The Cultural and Arts Policy Institute at Northeastern University
Tonya Langford	Director of Programs, Arts and Business Council of Rhode Island
Johana Fisher	Gimmick Jewelry
Sharon Ahern	Westerly-Pawcatuck Downtown Manager
James Derentis	Executive Vice President Retail banking and Marketing, Bank RI
Jefferson Guimond	Director of Community Affairs, Office of the Lieutenant Governor/ SBAC Staff Member

The workgroup met numerous times during the year in order to develop an agenda that will achieve the forum goals of empowering artists as businesspeople as well as a discussion on how government can create a thriving arts environment. In order to ascertain the needs of the arts community, a survey was developed and sent out to numerous artists through the RI State Council on the Arts. Survey results were used by the workgroup to develop an agenda aimed at addressing the needs that the artists identified.

## **Forum Content and Structure**

### **Content**

After analyzing the survey data, the forum workgroup identified the following discussion subjects and activities to include at the seminar. The general concept of the seminar is to:

- A. Trends and best practices of Arts as an economic engine at the state and local levels
- B. A comprehensive presentation by artists and arts and business professionals on best practices and ideas for "making a living making art"

- C. Networking opportunity by key resource people and organizations that can empower those in the "creative economy".

### **Venue and sponsorship**

BankRI has agreed to partner with the SBAC on this forum which is scheduled to take place in May 2004 at the Nazarian Center for the Arts at Rhode Island College.

### **Program Structure (draft)**

- 8:45 AM -3:45 PM - **Networking with agencies that can empower our creative workers.**

For the duration of the event resource agencies will be on hand in order to display their services. This will provide an opportunity for attendees to hear about programs and incentives as well as network with the people who can help them become more effective businesspeople.

9:00 AM -9:30 AM - **Greetings and Introduction.** Speakers to include:

- Lieutenant Governor Fogarty to bring greetings from the state and as chairman of the SBAC, talk about forum concept.
- Herb Weiss Pawtucket Re-Development Association greetings as workgroup chair.
- Randy Rosenbaum (Executive Director RI State Council for the Arts) greetings
- BankRI greetings
- Remarks by President Nazarian

9:30 AM -10:15 AM - **Keynote Presentation : The Political Will to Implement Arts and Cultural Policy**

- **(Confirmed)** The Honorable Michael Dukakis, Member, Board of Directors, the Arts and Cultural Policy Institute at Northeastern University. Former Governor of Massachusetts and Presidential Candidate. Governor Dukakis will speak on his experience as a pioneering public official, putting Arts and Cultural Policy at the forefront of the public policy agenda during his administration.

**10:15 AM -12:15 PM - Presentation on the Creative Worker as an Economic Engine: Rhode Island State and Local Trends**

- Ann Galligan, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Cultural and Arts Policy Research Center at Northeastern University.
- RISD/ Bryant College Arts and Business Collaborative: Informational Presentation
- State discussion of arts as an economic engine and what is happening from a State perspective (Randy Rosenbaum, Director, State Council for the Arts)

**12:15 PM -1:00 PM - Lunch**

**1:00 PM -1:45 PM - Local communities best practices (panel discussion).**

- Pawtucket Mayor James Doyle
- Providence Mayor David Cicilline
- Woonsocket Mayor Susan Menard
- Westerly State Representative Peter Lewiss

**1:45 PM -2:30 PM - Business Best Practices by RI's Creative Workers (panel discussion):**

(Not confirmed, the workgroup is still in discussion on who will present).

- Gretchen Del Simpson, Painter.
- Johanna Fisher from Gimmick Jewelry
- Web developer/ graphic artist.
- Deb Dornody, If'n Books and Marks

**2:30 PM -3:30 PM - "Making a Living Making Art"**

Ken Proudfoot, Executive Director, Enterprise Institute of RI, will present tools and techniques tailored to the "Arts-businessperson".

**Post Forum Goals**

The SBAC will be administering a survey at the event in order to

get a better understanding of the specific needs of the arts community. Subsequently, the Arts Forum Workgroup will put together recommendations that can be used to help enhance the arts as an economic engine throughout the state. The workgroup also intends on developing a resource guide for arts business people to make it easier for them to navigate through the resources that can assist them.

## ***Appendix I***

### ***STATUTE ESTABLISHING***

#### ***THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL***

##### ***CHAPTER 42-91***

***§ 42-91-1 Creation of council.*** - There is created and established a "small business advocacy council", hereinafter referred to as the "council".

***§ 42-91-2 Membership of council.*** - (a) The council shall consist of twenty (20) members, ten

(10) of whom shall be public members, two (2) to be appointed by the governor, two (2) by the

lieutenant governor, two (2) by the speaker of the house, two (2) by the senate majority leader, one by the secretary of state, and one by the general treasurer; provided, however, that all of the public members shall be officers, partners, or proprietors of Rhode Island companies that are small businesses as defined by the United States small business administration; one of whom shall be affiliated with a business-related department of a Rhode Island institution of higher learning, to be appointed by the lieutenant governor; one of whom shall be a minority party member of the joint committee on small business, to be appointed by the speaker of the house; one of whom shall be a member of the governor's staff, to be appointed by the

governor; and the chairperson of the joint committee on small business, ex officio; the vice-chairperson of the joint committee on small business, ex officio; the director of the department of economic development, or the director's permanent designee, ex officio; the director of the department of labor and training or the director's permanent designee, ex officio; the secretary of state, or the secretary's permanent designee, ex officio; the general treasurer, or the treasurer's permanent designee, ex officio; and the lieutenant governor, ex officio. The lieutenant governor shall serve as chairperson of the council.

(b) One of the public members appointed by each of the appointing authorities shall be appointed to serve until the first day of June, 1987, and the other to serve until the first day of June, 1988; and all members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. In the month of May in any year in which a public member's term of office expires, the respective appointing authorities shall appoint successors to the members whose terms shall expire in that year, to hold office commencing on the first day of June in the year of appointment for a term of three (3) years or until their respective successors are appointed and qualified. Any vacancy of an appointed member, which may occur in the council, shall be filled by appointment by the respective appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. Ex-officio members shall serve until the end of their term of office; the member of the governor's staff shall serve until the end of the governor's term of office.

(c) The council shall meet at the call of the lieutenant governor and shall elect from among

themselves a vice-chairperson, who shall be one of the public members, and a secretary. The council shall meet at least quarterly during each calendar year.

(d) The membership shall receive no compensation for their services. The council may request,

through the department of economic development, any clerical and technical assistance it may deem necessary to accomplish its purpose.

**§ 42-91-3 Purpose and duties.** - (a) The purpose of the council shall be to develop those specific

and comprehensive recommendations for executive and legislative action as may be necessary and proper to maintain and encourage the continued viability of small businesses in the state. To enable it to carry out that purpose, the council shall study the following matters and any others it deems appropriate:

(1) The problems and needs of small businesses.

(2) The role of small businesses in creating jobs, and what will assist small businesses in carrying out that role.

**§ 42-91-4 Reports.** - The council shall serve as a continuing advisory body and shall report its

recommendations to the governor and general assembly from time to time, together with drafts of

legislation necessary to carry out the recommendations; provided, however, that the council shall file an annual report on or before January 30 each year with the governor and the general assembly.